DOCKET NO.: 212905US3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFIC

IN RE APPLICATION OF

RYUJI HOTTA : EXAMINER: TRAN A, PHI DIEU N

SERIAL NO: 09/930,212

FILED: AUGUST 16, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 3637

FOR: FASTENING MEMBER AND

SIDING BOARDS ATTACHMENT

STRUCTURE

37 CFR 1.111 AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed February 14, 2003, please amend the aboveidentified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2, 3, 5, 9, 10, 12, 16-18, and 24 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please rewrite claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, and 14 as follows:

1. (amended) A fastening member that is disposed to bridge over an upper rabbeted horizontal edge of a lower siding board and a lower rabbeted horizontal edge of an upper siding board for mounting the siding boards to a framework of a building with an underlayment being interposed between,

wherein the fastening member is enabled to be fixed to the framework by a nail or a screw and which the fastening member is turned upside down when fixing is performed with the screw in contrast to a case in which fixing is performed with the nail,

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